Supply Chain Management Symposium
Spring 2026 Poster Competition

Introduction

The Center for Supply Chain Management will be organizing an in-person, digital poster competition on **Friday, March 20, 2026** as part of the 2026 SCM Symposium, where finalists will present their posters to the event attendees and the Poster Competition judges. The Symposium will be held at Alumni Hall on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh, and includes expert speakers, networking opportunities, and breakfast and lunch. (Please see the Center for Supply Chain Management's website for more information about the 2026 Symposium.)

The poster competition will have two rounds:

- **Round one** will be judged by a panel of faculty members from the participating universities. The judges will review your digital poster and abstract and select up to five graduate and up to five undergraduate finalists for the final round. Winners from Round 1 will be announced on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, by email.
- **Round two** will be judged at the event on Friday, March 20, 2026 by a panel of senior industry supply chain experts. As part of the judging in Round 2, finalists will make a two-minute presentation to the judges. This will be followed by three minutes of Q&A with the judging panel. There will be separate judging panels in Round 2 for the graduate and undergraduate divisions. Winners will get a placement ribbon and a cash prize. Judging decisions are final. Symposium attendees will be encouraged to attend the Round 2 presentations.

Cash Prizes	Graduate Division	Undergraduate Division
1ˢᵗ Place	$750	$600
2ⁿᵈ Place	$400	$300
3ʳᵈ Place	$250	$200

Note: Winning prize total will be split equally between all team members.

Key Dates and Deadlines
- **Registration** by **Friday, March 6, 2026** via **this form**.
  Or use the **QR Code below to register**.
- **Submission of Poster** in electronic form **Wednesday, March 11, 2026 by email to** Janice Trygar at jmt141@pitt.edu

Sponsored by:

Eligibility Rules and Deadlines

- All participants must be undergraduate or graduate university students at either the University of Pittsburgh or other invited universities and enrolled at least part-time during the term in which the Symposium takes place.

- Posters can be authored individually, or in teams of up to four individuals. (**Note:** Award money will be divided equally among the total of presenters on each team.) Please be aware that the prize money may take 4-6 weeks to issue.

- If **all authors are undergraduates**, then the poster will be entered in the undergraduate judging pool; otherwise, the poster will be entered in the graduate judging pool.

- Authors must register their intent to create a poster by the **Registration deadline: Friday, March 6, 2026**. The form includes title, abstract and team information. Space is limited so register early! *Questions? Please email Janice Trygar at jmt141@pitt.edu as soon as possible.*

- Topic of interest and Abstract. These can be updated or changed up until the Registration Deadline.

- The final poster abstract should be submitted by the **Poster title and abstract submission deadline, Wednesday, March 11, 2026 through [this form](#).**

Poster finalists note: At least one member of each finalist team must be present to answer questions during the 2026 Symposium on Friday, March 20, 2026. If there are any changes in the team membership, we must be notified immediately at jmt141@pitt.edu. **IMPORTANT: Winners will forfeit their prize if they are not present at the awards ceremony at the end of the Symposium**.

Topics

- Your poster can be on any supply chain related topic. A list of potential topics is attached as Appendix A. Note: Topics may be rejected by the Center for SCM if they are deemed to not be relevant to Supply Chain Management. Also, if a single topic is oversubscribed, then authors may be asked by the Center for SCM to select another topic, so please register early.

Poster Guidelines

- Please see Appendix B.

Key Dates and Deadlines

- Registration deadline: **Friday, March 6, 2026**, through [this form](#) **or the below QR Code below.**
- Submission of Poster in electronic form: **Wednesday, March 11, 2026.**
- Round one winners announced: **Tuesday, March 17, 2026.**
- Round 2 Poster Competition and <u>winners announced</u> at the Symposium on **Friday, March 20, 2026.**

Supply Chain Management Symposium Spring 2026 Poster Competition

APPENDIX A: POTENTIAL POSTER TOPICS

1. Use of Generative AI in supply chains

2. Improving supply chain visibility and transparency

3. The evolving EV supply chain

4. Source locally: Opportunities and challenges

5. The new "Trade Wars" and their impact on supply chains

6. Future of additive manufacturing (3D Printing)

7. The human-less, robotic supply chain: Pipe dream or reality

8. Drones: When will the technology "arrive" and with what ROIs?

9. Sustainability and Responsiveness: Allies or enemies?

10. The "gig" economy: Supply chain implications

11. Autonomous driving: Implementation timeline

12. Reverse logistics in the e-commerce era

13. The omni-channel challenge

14. New delivery mechanisms for health care

15. Real SCM impact from Big Data

16. The "first-mile" / "last-mile" delivery: Implications for responsiveness

17. Long-term COVID-19 impact on the *select industry of your choice* industry

18. Resetting Supply Chain Risk Profiles: Cost/Benefit lessons from the pandemic

19. Smart contracts in the modern supply chain

20. Changing supermarket industry dynamics: A supply chain perspective

21. Learnings from COVID-19 vaccine production and distribution

22. Regulatory impact on global pharmaceutical supply chains

23. Enhancing resiliency by shortening the global supply chain

24. Reshoring of the automotive supply chain

25. Unique challenges in managing retail supply chains

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APPENDIX B: POSTER REQUIREMENTS AND BEST PRACTICES

Poster Requirements

1. A poster is a single slide on which you present your research, findings, and recommendations.

2. You can create your e-poster using Power Point, Word, or any such package, but should submit it as a pdf file for Round 1 judging.

3. The aspect ratio for the poster should be 16:9 (the aspect ratio that is now the default in PowerPoint). Do not make poster larger than the size of a standard slide.

4. Use large enough fonts so people will not have to squint to read the material. Change the font size, color, and emphasis, according to the importance of the underlying content.

   a. You will present your poster on your laptop during the Friday event. You will present to the judges in an assigned classroom as queued. The judges would all have been given a pdf print out of your poster and abstract.

5. Please make sure that you are not using any copyrighted information (images, quotes, etc.) unless you have permission to do so.

6. Please include citations and acknowledge previous work as appropriate in your submission. These should be on your poster but small enough not to detract from your poster.

7. Creating the poster should be the student team's own work. The team may only receive general feedback on their work from others, including faculty advisors and friends. Students may use their prior/ongoing work and research for the poster but should cite it appropriately.

8. All participants will be assigned a Poster Number to place on their poster. This will be provided to you on or shortly after the Friday, March 7th deadline.

9. **No other identifying information (name(s), university information, location, etc.) should be included on the poster or the abstract.**

10. All posters must have an accompanying abstract (maximum 250 words).

11. If your project involves the use of human subjects, please contact the organizers.

12. Please name your file as follows:
    YourAssignedPosterNumber_CSCM_Symposium_2026.pdf

Poster Tips and Best Practices

1. Your poster should be constructed so that it presents the desired information in a self- explanatory manner.

2. Be sure to communicate why your topic is important to Supply Chain Management professionals, students, and faculty. This is the hook that will pull in an audience to look at your poster.

3. Keep your poster simple and brief. A poster is not a place for a term paper to be displayed page by page. Instead, develop a storyboard with panels on your poster that tell the story and communicate your findings.

4. Organize your poster using headings, such as "Introduction," "Key Research Question," "Background," "Major Findings," "Community/Business Impact," and "Recommendations" or "Conclusions," "References," etc. These headings will help establish a logical flow to your poster.

5. Make your poster visually appealing. Have fun. Be creative. Incorporate color. Use photographs, graphs, charts, maps, and the like. Simplify charts and figures to include only relevant information. Be attentive to the layout and placement of your content.

6. Ask others for feedback before you finalize your poster. Give it your best effort and it will reflect well on you.

7. If you are selected for the final round, remember that you will have a limited amount of time with the judges. Make your pitch, but reserve time for the judges' questions. Anticipate the most likely questions and develop your best answers in advance. Other Symposium participants may also "visit" you to look at your poster.

8. You may wish to collect names and contact information for anyone interested in receiving more details about your poster.

9. Enjoy your interactions with the judges and symposium attendees. They appreciate your effort, and they look forward to learning about your topic and meeting you!